

State of Alaska FY2005 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Health and Social Services State Medical Examiner Component Budget Summary

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Component: State Medical Examiner

Contribution to Department's Mission

The Department's mission is to promote and protect the health and well-being of Alaskans. In support of this mission, the State Medical Examiner's Office provides a state-wide system for the medical-legal investigation of unanticipated, sudden, and violent deaths in order to provide accurate, legally defensible determinations of the cause of death and information to ensure appropriate follow-up on all child deaths in the state.

Core Services

As required by law, investigate and certify all deaths that occur within the state of Alaska that are a result of violence, suspected violence, deaths due to accidental causes, deaths that occur during incarceration, deaths that are associated with conditions that pose a hazard to public safety or health, and all unattended or unexplained deaths. The central facility in Anchorage provides post mortem examinations appropriate for each case referred and includes access to state-of-the-art forensic medical services including not only forensic pathology but also radiology, odontology, anthropology and the services of the Department of Public Safety Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory.

For those deaths that are investigated, establish identity of deceased if necessary, maintain records and evidence, provide legally defensible determinations of the cause and manner of death, and present findings of the investigation to courts, law enforcement agencies, and other parties with legitimate interests in the death.

Examine living persons to collect evidence as a result of previous injuries.

Participate in training personnel involved in death investigations, including forensic medico legal investigators, local physicians, state and local police, village public safety officers, etc.

FY2005 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2005 Component Budget: \$1,271,400	Personnel:	
	Full time	12
	Part time	0
	Total	12

Key Component Challenges

Increasing numbers of statewide autopsies, consults and teaching affect the ability to keep up with increasing workload.

Bring the autopsy suite and embalming/decomp suite into compliance with OSHA regulations and standards.

Potential development of a federally mandated Professional Standards of Practice law, which if adopted, would require all states to become National Association of Medical Examiners accredited.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2005

One of the three medical examiner positions will be eliminated in FY2005 due to recruitment difficulties compounded by limited resources.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2003

2003 Caseload

of cases reported: 1,662
of cases autopsied: 245
of consult cases: 745
of inspection cases: 87

Continue to develop and implement a quality assurance system for the State Medical Examiner's Office.

Improved the quality of the performance of the Child Fatality Review Committee. Added one new member from outside the Anchorage area.

Continued development of the Bone Committee.

Continued to improve the quality of statistical information by comparing previous years to present year numbers.

10% of old case files have been archived to magnetic media storage.

Three additional staff have attended training and are registered Medicolegal Death Investigators. Entire staff continues with CME training and certifications.

Began implementing a new database system for the Medical Examiner's Office.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 12.65 Death Investigations and Medical Examinations
7 AAC 35 Embalming

Contact Information

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State Medical Examiner Component Financial Summary

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2003 Actuals	FY2004 Authorized	FY2005 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	926.6	939.7	1,003.5
72000 Travel	13.5	7.1	4.0
73000 Contractual	200.7	205.8	190.9
74000 Supplies	52.1	49.3	52.6
75000 Equipment	23.7	43.2	20.4
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	1,216.6	1,245.1	1,271.4
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,216.6	1,245.1	1,271.4
Funding Totals	1,216.6	1,245.1	1,271.4

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2004 Authorized to FY2005 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2004 Authorized	1,245.1	0.0	0.0	1,245.1
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Changes to Retirement and Other Personal Services Rates	39.4	0.0	0.0	39.4
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Department-wide travel reduction	-3.1	0.0	0.0	-3.1
-Delete vacant position	-10.0	0.0	0.0	-10.0
FY2005 Governor	1,271.4	0.0	0.0	1,271.4

State Medical Examiner Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2004</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2005</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	13	12	Annual Salaries	673,171
Part-time	0	0	Premium Pay	49,600
Nonpermanent	0	1	Annual Benefits	290,914
			<i>Less 1.00% Vacancy Factor</i>	(10,185)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	13	13	Total Personal Services	1,003,500

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk III	1	0	0	0	1
Autopsy Assistant	2	0	0	0	2
Embalmer	2	0	0	0	2
Investigator I	3	0	0	0	3
Investigator II	1	0	0	0	1
Staff Physician	2	0	0	0	2
Totals	13	0	0	0	13